The Lower Paxton Township NEWSLETTER

"Good Government for a Great Community"

December / February, 2015-16

Volume 29, Number 1

Linglestown 250th Anniversary Celebration





Additional Photos on Page 6

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Leaf Collection to Continue, Weather Permitting

The Township will continue the collection of leaves through December, weather permitting. Leaves must be raked to roadside.

The tentative schedule will be posted on the Township website, <u>www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov</u>. The schedule is subject to change due to inclement weather or equipment availability.

The Public Works Department attempts to vacuum two times through November and December. Here are some collection guidelines:

- Collection is for LEAVES ONLY. DO NOT place sticks, twigs, branches or other yard waste materials with leaves.
 If leaves are mixed with other materials they will not be collected.
- Rake leaves to within FOUR FEET of the curb or edge of the roadway. Long narrow piles are easier to pick up. Do not rake leaves onto the road.
- Crews will not collect leaves that are covered with tarps.

Winter Maintenance Reminders

Here are some simple guidelines for winter maintenance:

- ◆ Pay attention to weather forecasts and plan accordingly.
- Inspect your mailbox and post to ensure it can withstand the winter months.
- Remove trailers and vehicles from the roadway before a storm arrives.
- ◆ Limit driving during and after a snow storm.
- ◆ Do not shovel or blow snow into the street and never attempt to stop or flag down a truck driver who is plowing.
- Clear space along the curb or edge of road before your driveway to provide an area for the snow to drop off the plow blade and not in your driveway.

Compost Facility Open 3 Days a Week

The Township's compost facility is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, for residents and contractors until December 12, weather permitting.

The 2015 annual fee for residents is \$40 and \$12 for a one-day permit. The annual permit fee for contractors is \$550, with a one-day permit costing \$60.

Permits can be purchased at the Municipal Center and at Hornung's Hardware, 6005 Blue Bird Ave. Permits are not sold at the compost facility. Vehicle registration information is required when applying for a permit.



The Board of Supervisors honors Mike Cerzullo, 47 years of service at Paxtonia Fire Company; Lee Witman, 58 years of service at Colonial Park Fire Company; and Russell Knapp, Jr., 61 years of service at Colonial Park Fire Company, for a total of 166 years to the Lower Paxton Township Fire Departments.

Leaf Waste Collection Continues to December

Waste Management will collect unlimited leaf waste from regular service residential customers twice monthly through December 4. Tag-a-bag customers must buy tags for leaf waste collection. Tags are \$3.50 each.

Leaf waste collection is the day following your standard trash/recyclables collection day. All leaf waste must be placed at the curb before 6 a.m.

Leaf waste includes leaves, weeds, trimmings, bundled tree prunings and all garden waste. It does not include grass, which is collected as solid waste. Leaf waste must be placed loose in trash cans or "Kraft" bags, not exceeding 50 pounds when full. Plastic bags may not be used.

Brush must be cut and tied in bundles no more than six feet long, and tree branches can be no greater than two inches in diameter. Bundles cannot exceed 50 pounds. For more information, call Waste Management at 1-800-634-4595.

Holiday Trash Collection

Because of the November 26 Thanksgiving Day holiday, Thursday's and Friday's trash and recyclables will be collected a day late.

Trash and recyclables will be collected under the normal schedule December 21, 22, 23, and 24 and on December 28, 29, 30, and 31. The collection schedule for December 25 and January 1 will be Saturday, December 26 and January 2. Friday's trash/recyclables will be collected on Saturday on both weeks.

Residents are asked to place all trash in containers or to secure it so that it doesn't blow onto adjoining properties or on public streets.

For more information on the collection of solid waste and recyclables visit the Lower Paxton Twp. Web site at lowerpaxton-pa.gov.

A 2016 Budget Message from the Board of Supervisors

Lower Paxton Township's 2016 budgets have been advertised for public inspection and are available at <u>lowerpaxton-pa.gov</u>. The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to act on the proposed budgets at a public meeting on December 15th, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Center.

The Township's proposed 2016 budgets are balanced. However, potential additions to the budgets, for increased services and desired capital projects, may require additional funding.

The Supervisors are considering the need for additional revenue to fund major concerns facing our community. The following items highlight this need for additional funding:

- Significant portions of the Township's storm sewer system are reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. A large number of detention basins are in need of repair. EPA has issued standards for local governments to reduce pollution to the Chesapeake Bay. The Township has borrowed money for stormwater improvements. Future efforts need a dedicated source of funding.
- **2.** The Township's 3 fire companies have requested additional funds for equipment as several pieces are in need of replacement.
- **3.** Additional funds are needed to support the South Central Emergency Medical Service.
- **4.** Additional funds are needed to increase annual roadway paving and provide for proper maintenance of Township streets.

Christmas Tree Collection

Waste Management will collect Christmas trees the weeks of January 4 and 18, as part of the leaf collection program.

Trees will be collected the day after collection of trash and recyclables. There is no additional cost for this service.

Christmas trees may also be dropped off at Koons Park or the Public Works Facility on Locust Lane until January 22. Trees must be free of all decorations and cannot be in plastic bags. (The compost facility is not open at this time of year.)



The members of the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission honor Dennis Guise for 31 years of service with the Lower Paxton Township Planning Commission.

- **5.** Funds are needed for development of Wolfersberger Park, 95 acres of public property situated along Wenrick Street.
- **6.** Funds are needed for transportation improvements to address increasing traffic volumes.
- 7. Funds are needed to improve the Township's compost facility to comply with DEP permit requirements and address issues affecting the local neighborhood.
- **8.** Funds are needed to update the Township's Comprehensive Plan, with the current document possessing an effective date of 2003.

In 2015, Lower Paxton Township property owners paid real estate taxes at the rate of 23.7882 mills; to CDSD at 14.8622 mills, Dauphin County at 7.226 mills, and LPT at 1.7 mills. The Township receives only 7.1% of your real estate taxes. Each additional tenth (0.1) of a mill generates approximately \$300,000 per year and impacts the average residential property by only \$20 per year.

Your input is encouraged to determine how we address our community's needs. We, the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township, have a reputation for listening. Let your voice be heard.

Holiday Tree Lighting

Friday, December 4, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.



Enjoy the Township's annual Tree Lighting festivities at the Friendship Center. Featuring a sing-along in anticipation of Santa arriving by fire truck. Warm up inside and BOP to the music with refreshments, arts & crafts, prizes and a visit with Santa.



The Friendship Center is proud to participate in "Toys For Tots" as a drop site. Donations will be accepted November 1-December 4. Marines will be presented the toys at the annual Tree Lighting on December 4.

www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisors took the following action at recent meetings:

- ✓ Authorized a five-year winter maintenance agreement with PennDOT for the following streets: Rutherford Road, Colonial Road, Locust Lane, Nyes Road, Blue Ridge Avenue and portions of Mountain Road and Union Deposit Road, outside the interstate interchange. The Township will receive a total annual payment of \$27,257, a 1.5 percent increase over the previous year.
- ✓ Administered the oath of office to three new police officers: Laura Solomon of Mechanicsburg, Adam Tankersly of Cleona, and Andrew Brady of Landsdale.
- ✓ Approved a three-year agreement with Penn Waste to receive

Mailbox Damage Policy

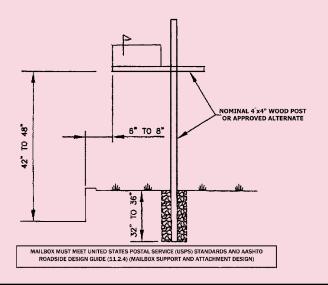
The Township has a policy on damages to mailboxes within a road right-of-way due to Public Works Department operations.

The Township will provide a maximum of \$50 for repair or replacement of a damaged mailbox when:

- The mailbox is physically struck by a Township truck, snow plow or other equipment, or
- The mailbox is physically struck by a truck, snow plow or other equipment owned by a subcontractor working for the Township.

The Township is not responsible and assumes no liability for the repair or replacement of any mailbox damaged by snow pushed to the edge of the road by a snow plow.

Township Supervisors recommend that mailboxes be set back no less than six inches from the face of a curb or the edge of pavement to the front of the mailbox, regardless of the circumstances, and that mailboxes, including posts, be installed and maintained as follows:



- recyclables that are placed at curbside. The Township will receive at least \$5 a ton, but the price could increase depending on a formula that is part of the agreement. Recyclables will be delivered to Penn Waste by Waste Management, the Township's trash/recyclables collector.
- Adopted a policy for the disposition of vehicles and equipment to the volunteer fire companies.
- ✓ Changed the name of the Art Advisory Council to Arts Council. The Council remains an advisory body to the Supervisors
- Approved the allocation of building permits in the Beaver Creek sanitary sewer drainage basin.
- ✓ Approved a lease/purchase agreement for four pieces of exercise equipment for the Friendship Center at an annual cost of \$18,958 over a three-year period.
- Appointed Lisa Schaeffer and Dianne Moran to the Planning Commission.
- ✓ Approved the ranking of applications for Dauphin County grant funds in the following order: Township Comprehensive Plan, Koons Pool, Devon Manor Pool and Swim Club, Nyes Road sidewalk project, Penn Colonial Pool, Bishop McDevitt High School baseball fields, noise abatement at the compost facility, Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, and Barak Inc.
- Awarded a \$26,325 contract to JP Environmental to demolish the Gale Drive pump station, which was decommissioned and is no longer needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ Approved a preliminary/final subdivision plan for Sertoma Estates that will subdivide a 55-acre lot at 6200 Parkway East into four small lots.
- ✓ Approved a preliminary/final land development plan for Sir Thomas Court. The plan calls for a 31,200-square-foot medical office building, along with 154 parking spaces in the Business Campus Zoning District.
- ✓ Approved a consolidation of lots owned by David Kepler and bisected by Blackberry Alley
- ✓ Approved a preliminary/final land development plan for Tina and Asher Benner. This plan corrected a lot line between the two properties.

Linglestown Tree Lighting and New Year's Eve

The annual Linglestown Christmas tree lighting will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 4, in Linglestown Square. The lighting will follow a carol singing event.

The New Year's Eve celebration will begin at 10 p.m. on Thursday, December 31 in the Square.

Township Meetings Schedule

DECEMBER

- 1 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Arts Council, Friendship Center, 4 p.m.
- 2 Greenway Committee, Friendship Center, 5:45 p.m.
- 2 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 2 Parks & Recreation Board, Friendship Center, 7:15 p.m.
- 3 Zoning Hearing Board, 7 p.m.
- 7 Friendship Center Operating Board, Friendship Ctr., 6:30 p.m.
- 8 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 15 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m.
- 22 Shade Tree Commission, 4:30 p.m.

JANUARY

- 4 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 6 Arts Council, Friendship Center, 4 p.m.
- 6 Greenway Committee, Friendship Center, 5:45 p.m.

MUNICIPAL CENTER CLOSED

NOVEMBER 26, 27 – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
DECEMBER 24 – NOON CLOSING
DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY
JANUARY 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 18 – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
FEBRUARY 15 – PRESIDENTS DAY

Note: Meetings listed above are held in the Municipal Center, 425 Prince St., except where noted. Meeting times are subject to change. Please check the website for updates to the schedule.

FOLLOW THE BOARD ON COMCAST CABLE CHANNEL 21 AND VERIZON CHANNEL 22 ALL BOARD MEETINGS ON TU

The Township Board of Supervisors meetings are now televised on Comcast cable channel 21 and Verizon channel 22 and rebroadcast the following Thursday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at noon.

- 6 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 6 Parks and Recreation Board, Friendship Ctr., 7:15 p.m.
- 11 Friendship Center Operating Board, Friendship Ctr. 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Board of Supervisors, 6 p.m.
- 19 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m.
- 26 Shade Tree Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 28 Zoning Hearing Board, 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 1 Public Safety Committee, 2:30 p.m.
- 2 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 3 Arts Council, Friendship Center, 4 p.m.
- 3 Greenway Committee, Friendship Center, 5:45 p.m.
- 3 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 3 Parks & Recreation Board, Friendship Center, 7:15 p.m.
- 8 Friendship Center Operating Board, Friendship Ctr., 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 16 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m.
- 23 Shade Tree Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 23 Authority Board, 6 p.m.
- 25 Zoning Hearing Board, 7 p.m.

MARCH

- 1 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 2 Arts Council, Friendship Center, 4 p.m.
- 2 Greenway Committee, Friendship Center, 5:45 p.m.
- 2 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 2 Parks & Recreation Board, Friendship Center, 7:15 p.m.
- 8 Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting, 6 p.m.
- 14 Friendship Center Operating Board, Friendship Ctr., 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Board of Supervisors, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Community Engagement Committee, 7 p.m.
- 22 Shade Tree Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 24 Zoning Hearing Board, 7 p.m.



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS – Standing, from left, William C. Seeds, Sr., Robin L. Lindsey and William L. Hornung. Seated, from left, Gary A. Crissman and Board Chairman William B. Hawk.

Bower Paxton Township Mission, Vision Statement

Lower Paxton Twp. will be an open, vibrant, and progressive municipality working within the bounds of available resources, providing the best quality of life for a growing community and to be a recognized leader in Central Pennsylvania.

To achieve our vision, Lower Paxton Twp. will work to meet and exceed the needs of a growing township in a cost-efficient manner.

Township Phone Numbers

425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109

Administration — 657-5600 Board Voice Mail — 724-8327 Police Department — 657-5656

Public Works Department — 657-5615

Parks & Recreation — 657-5635 Friendship Center — 657-5635 Sewer Department — 657-5617 **Web Site — lowerpaxton-pa.gov**

Top Dog in Lower Paxton Township

By Supervisor Robin Lindsey

In January of this year, the Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of a K-9 dog for the Police Department. The Department has not had a K-9 since 1972.

Officer Chad Miller, an eleven year veteran of the Department, was selected as the K-9 handler. On April 2nd, Officer Miller visited Castle's K-9, a police dog training facility in Mechanicsburg, to choose a police dog. As a result, Rex, born in Holland on March 1, 2014, was selected as a K-9 match for Officer Miller. Prior to coming to Pennsylvania, Rex had already received extensive K-9 training.

On May 12, 2015, Rex received his Oath of Office as a Lower Paxton Township Police Officer during a meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Officer Miller and Officer Rex participate in 16 hours of mandatory training per month. Officer Rex is trained to take commands in English. As a patrol and narcotics dog, Officer Rex is trained to search for drugs to include heroin, marijuana, cocaine and methamphedimines. Additionally, Officer Rex is trained in building searches, tracking, area searches, article searches and obedience.

During Officer Rex's seven months with the Department he has been very productive not only in Lower Paxton, but also in neighboring municipalities. Officer Miller is very proud of Officer Rex's progress, stating: "You go into a fresh situation and Officer Rex is able to apprehend the suspect(s)."

The Board of Supervisors provided funding for the K-9 program in the 2015 budget. Additionally, the Township is accepting donations from citizens and businesses to assist with the program. Anyone interested in making a donation, should make their check payable to: Lower Paxton Township Police K-9. Checks should be mailed to the Police Department, 425 Prince St., Harrisburg, PA 17109. Thanks to all the residents and businesses who have already donated to the Township's K-9 Fund.

Officer Miller and Officer Rex are available for public speaking appearances. Interested groups should contact the Police Department at 657-5656.

Please join the Board of Supervisors in welcoming Officer Rex to our police department, as we continue to make Lower Paxton Township a great community to live, work, and play.

Linglestown 250th Anniversary Celebration







COMMUNITY NEWS

AARP Seeking Volunteers For Tax-Aide Program

AARP Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service, is seeking volunteers to prepare tax returns for seniors and low-income persons next year. Volunteers, who should be comfortable using a computer and have some familiarity with tax forms, will get free tax training in January. They will be required to pass an IRS certification exam.

Volunteers contribute a minimum of 10 hours a week preparing tax returns between February 1 and April 15. For more information visit <u>www.aarp.org/tavolunteers8</u> or call 418-0080. The deadline to apply is December 1.

Caring Hospice Services

Caring Hospice of Central PA is looking for volunteers interested in visiting our Hospice patients. Your conversation, companionship, kindness would be greatly appreciated by those in our community in time of need. For more information, or to volunteer, call Mary Lahead at 295-1700. Training is available for those who volunteer.

Computer Lab at Library

The East Shore Area Library on Ethel Street is now featuring the M&T Bank Mobile Computer Lab, with 10 laptop computer workstations. The computers are available during regular library hours. For more information, visit www.dcls.org or call 652-9380 and select option four.

Asera Hospice Volunteers Needed

Asera Care Hospice at 75 S. Houcks Road is seeking volunteers to enhance the quality of life for patients and families through companionship, music, or pet therapy. Free training and on-going support is provided. For more information, call Sally Miller at 1-800-551-4466.

Penn Harris Toastmasters

The Penn Harris Toastmasters Club provides opportunities to develop oral communication and leadership skills in a supportive environment. Meetings are open to the public and held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesday of the month at the East Shore Area Library (behind the Colonial Park Mall). For more information, visit www.pennharristoastmasters.org.

Variety Band Available Free of Charge

The Township-sponsored Variety (Jazz) Band, under the leadership of former Central Dauphin band director James Milbrand, is available, free of charge, for community events. Anyone interested in hosting the band for a public event can contact Milbrand at 652-0338 or e-mail him at jsmilb@verizon.net. The band usually plays about 10 concerts each summer. The Township Arts Council would like the band, which performs half of its events outside the Township, to become more involved with local community events.

MOMS CLUB of East Shore

The East Shore MOMS Club offers a support network for stay-at-home mothers, along with a variety of free and non-free activities. Contact Nina Ertel at mad4cook@yahoo.com or go to momsclubeastshoreharrisburg.itgo.com.

The Cupboard at Calvary

A food pantry ministry serves residents in the 17109, 17111, and 17112 zip code areas from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at Calvary UMC, 4700 Locust Lane (use the Constitution Avenue entrance). For further information, call 545-0021.

Linglestown Area Civic Association

The Association meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month at the Linglestown Fire House.

Homeland Hospice Volunteer Training

Homeland Hospice volunteers are members of a compassionate team that provide personalized care to terminally ill patients and their families. For more information, please call or e-mail Cris Bagby at 221-7890 or cbgby@homelandhospice.org.

Hospice Volunteer Opportunities

Compassionate Care Hospice and Hospice of Central Pennsylvania have volunteer opportunities available for individuals in providing patient or family support or assisting office staff with clerical duties. Please call Aubrey Smith of Compassionate Care at 800-777-5109 or Barbara Hardy of Hospice of Central Pennsylvania at 732-1000 for further information.

Meals on Wheels

The Dauphin County Area Agency on Aging provides a Meals on Wheels Program to older adults in Lower Paxton Twp. The Agency, through volunteer resources, provides a noontime hot meal to the elderly. Various volunteer opportunities exist through the agency. Individuals who wish to volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program can call 780-6130.

Soroptimist International of Harrisburg

Soroptimist International, a professional and business women's club, meets on the fourth Tuesday, September through June, for a 6:30 p.m. dinner/business meeting at the Holiday Inn East on Lindle Road. For membership information go to the club's website at www.harrisburgsoroptimist.org or call Kay Straw at 545-4010.

Soroptimist of Harrisburg East

The Soroptimist Club is an international women's service organization and is open to all women. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month, September through June, at the Giant Community Center, Linglestown Road. For more information contact Shirley Cleaver at mscleav@aol.com.

Girl Scout /Boy Scout Awards? Call the Township

Girl Scouts who live in the Township and have attained the Gold Award or Boy Scouts who have attained the Eagle Scout Award within the last year are asked to notify the Township at 657-5600. The Township will formally recognize Scouts who have earned the awards.

Recycle Items With Salvation Army

Township residents can recycle clothing, furniture and household items by calling the Salvation Army at 541-0203 The Salvation Army will pick up the items. It also has a drop-off site at the Colonial Park Mall. Tax deductible receipts are given for recyclable items.

TOPS

TOPS PA #609 (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets from 10:30 to noon on Fridays at Colonial Park United Church of Christ, 5000 Devonshire Road, in the former parsonage at the rear of the church. For more information, call Nancy at 599-5660 or 558-8119.

Chorus Welcomes New Singers

The Central Pennsylvania Women's Chorus performs an eclectic repertoire, including concert pieces and traditional and contemporary music. New singers are invited to join the group, which meets from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday nights at Colonial Park United Church of Christ, 5000 Devonshire Road (behind Best Buy). For more information, go to www.cpwchorus.org or call 564-0112.

Senior Van Volunteers Needed

The Lower Paxton Senior Van Service needs volunteers to help as a desk dispatcher or as a van driver. Call 657-5650, from 8 a.m. to noon, to volunteer or to leave a message.



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Daniel F. Gephart CIC, SCLA, AIC Certified Insurance Counselor dgephart@lwginsurance.com



Serving the community



WINTER STORMWATER TIPS

As winter approaches and rain turns to snow, it is still important to consider stormwater pollution. Pollutants such as soaps, fertilizers, automotive fluids, and pet waste can collect in the snow pack, accumulating until a thaw suddenly dumps them into the storm water system. Contaminants that end up in storm drains are carried off, untreated, to streams and larger bodies of water that are used for drinking, swimming, or fishing. Here are a few helpful habits to reduce the amount of harmful pollutants entering storm drains this winter season.

- Winterizing vehicles: Check that your car is not leaking oil or other fluids. It takes only a small amount of motor oil to pollute thousands of gallons of water. Also, dispose of drained fluids properly. Many service stations will accept used motor oil and recycle it.
- Washing vehicles: On a warm winter day, you may be tempted to break out the hose and bucket to get some of grime off of your car. Take a moment to see where that runoff will go. Does it wash down the driveway and into a storm drain or swale? If so, all that salt and dirt will enter our stormwater system. Using a car wash facility may cost a few dollars, but the wash water will be treated before being released.
- De-icing driveways and sidewalks: While it may be habit to stock up on salt for the winter, many people would not consider dumping a bucket of salt on their lawn in the summer. But the results are similar. Salt runs off of your sidewalk and onto the surrounding soil. Consider more environmentally-friendly deicing products.
- At your home, you can prevent pollution limiting the amount of salt and deicers you use on your driveways and sidewalks. One teaspoon of salt can contaminate five gallons of water! If there is a layer of salt remaining on your driveway after the ice melts, you used too much salt. If you do have excess salt, sweep it up and throw it away so that it is not washed away as runoff.

Aide to Sen. Teplitz Available to Residents

A representative from State Sen. Rob Teplitz's office will be at the Township Municipal Building from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Wednesdays of every month to answer questions and address residents' concerns.

More information is available at www.senatorteplitz.com/calendar.

Online Sewer Payment

To pay your sewer bill by credit card or e-check, access MUNICIPAY at www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov. A convenience fee will be charged.